

ELLIOTT JOINS NEWSWEEK

Michael Elliott, the former Washington bureau chief of *The Economist* and author of its "Lexington" column, has joined *Newsweek's* international section as diplomatic editor.



Michael Elliott

Elliott, who has been at *The Economist* since 1984, is the founding author of the magazine's "Bagehot" column on British politics. His posts with that magazine have included industrial editor and political editor. In addition, he has written a number of the magazine's surveys, and is turning the most recent one into a book for Simon & Schuster, tentatively called "The Old Country: America Since 1945."

OBITUARY

William Randolph Hearst Jr., editor in chief of the Hearst newspapers, died May 14. Heir to the publishing empire established by his father, Hearst was remembered by a longtime OPC member, Dwight Sargent, this way:

William Randolph Hearst Jr. was a man of honor and integrity, and a devoted practitioner of the highest principles of American journalism. *Editor & Publisher*, a magazine not given to hyperbolic commentary, headlined its obituary with these words:

"Death of a Newspaper Giant"
Bill Hearst was indeed a giant. I can say this after editing the editorial page of *The Boston Herald American* and later serving as his newspaper's national editorial writer in New York. He wanted the best in clarity, independence and public service, and that was a genuine challenge for all who had the privilege of working for him. Today there is one less giant in our profession, but the life and times of William Randolph Hearst Jr. have left an enduring mark.

WSJ WRITER WINS AWARD

Dorothy Rabinowitz, a television critic and editorial writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, won a 1993 Distinguished Writing Award from the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Rabinowitz, who joined *The Wall Street Journal* in 1990, was one of five winners of the award, which includes a \$2,500 prize. She was honored in the commentary category.

HERE'S COOKING WITH YOU

The Bulletin recently received a letter from an overseas member, **Sven-Erik Bergh** of Switzerland, who is the publisher of a book on cookery and wine called "Bergh's International Annual Digest Gastronomy '93/'94." The book, edited by Bergh, is a collection of articles by journalists from all over the world. Bergh, a food fancier and "spare-time cook," says he is interested in receiving articles from

members of the OPC on cooking and wine. They don't necessarily have to be straight recipes, but he's also looking for humorous and sophisticated reads.

Here's his address in Switzerland:

Kündig & Bergh Publishers AG, Zugerstrasse 186, CH-6314 Neuägeri (Zug). Or call, 042-72-10-10.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Because Asia is seeing an explosion of economic growth—especially in China—and because it's great news for a business magazine, *Forbes* has shifted its Pacific bureau chief, **Andrew Tanzer**, from Tokyo to Hong Kong. Tanzer, 36, who joined *Forbes* in 1984, went to Tokyo in 1985. He's fluent in Japanese and Mandarin and has a degree in East Asian Studies from Wesleyan University.

Taking his place is **Gale Eisenstodt**, 29, who has been named the new Tokyo chief. Eisenstodt, also fluent in Japanese, joined the magazine in 1988.

OPC Bulletin
ISSN-0738-7202
Monthly except August.
\$24/year included in dues. Copyright © 1993 Overseas Press Club of America.

Editor:
Amy Sivco

Associate Editor:
Al Kaff

ADDRESS
CHANGE: OPC,
320 East 42nd St., Mezzanine, New York, N.Y. 10017

France...

Continued from p. 2

Fabius, a former Socialist Prime Minister, both currently involved in public scandals. They bitterly attacked the *Canard* for its "calumnies" against them, and of course, against Beregovoy. *Le Monde*, *Figaro*, and most of the others, printed lengthy articles, full of questions, doubts, self-defense, some mea culpas, and breast beating, about what was fit to print and how it should be told. Freedom of the press, the right to know and selective reporting were mullied over everywhere people gathered. At the public funeral on Tuesday, Francois

Molly Moore To Talk On Women & War

How did women correspondents fare in the Gulf war zone? Has discrimination—overseas and at home—made their jobs tougher? Hear the anecdotes and answers first-hand from *Washington Post* military correspondent Molly Moore, author of *A Woman at War: Storming Kuwait with the U.S. Marines*, at the OPC's next program:

When: June 15, Tuesday
Time: 5:30 PM

Where: The Tudor, New York City

Among the worst problems of the Gulf war, including blistering desert heat, nighttime cold, "friendly fire" casualties and the threat of biological and chemical warfare, was the clash of cultures between the Americans and the Arabs. For women trying to do their jobs, both in the service and the press corps, the cultural consequences were horrifying as they struggled to carry out assignments in a male-domi-

nated society that accepts the degradation of women as the norm. At the program, Moore will examine these issues

Mitterrand, speaking more powerfully than he had since the elections, declared that the honor of Pierre Beregovoy had been "thrown to the dogs." This led to more public doubts, more disgust with the "scurrilous" press.

On Wednesday, the *Canard* published a sturdy defense of its own integrity, and continued attacks on Leotard and Fabius, asserting that its integrity was intact. For those of us who defended, at our peril, the public's right to know and the responsibility of the press to inform, the question remains, as always, why and should, a free press (if ever) keep public facts private? I think in France, the journalistic tradition of selective laundering of dirty linen and non-totally mildly controversial reporting will change little, but then, the *Canard Enchaîné* is not about to modify its traditions either. I have often wondered if the *Canard* is

looked upon indulgently by governments in power to justify the so-called tradition of public discussion.

I went on to spend a week in Prague and Budapest, where I found the world of post-Communism more grey than black and white, and not all that simple and/or democratic. As for the European diplomatic mind-set on President Bill Clinton: They wanted him, they needed him, but they couldn't quite say the words, and then they blamed the new boy on the block for want of leadership. Damned if he had pressed them (the American cowboys ride again) and double damned that he didn't. Two hours by air from Paris, Bosnia scared the Europeans more than it outraged them, it seemed.

Jacqueline Albert Simon, a member of the OPC, is an associate editor and U.S. bureau chief with Politique Internationale.

of sexism and report on her role as a military correspondent in covering Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

OPC Bulletin

Is the Media To Blame for PM's Death?

Should a free press keep public facts private?

BY JACQUELINE ALBERT SIMON

Paris in late April was as lovely as I've seen it. Chestnut trees in exuberant bloom, squares, centers, parks planted to lift one's spirits and excite the imagination. But Parisians, and the French in general, were less taken with their own and the city's effulgent charms than is their classic way. The political class, flushed with victory on the right, and crushed by a humiliating Socialist defeat on the left in the legislative elections earlier in the month, was settling now into post-partum campaign blues. Chastened by the ugliness of the most vicious, mudslinging and scandal-riven campaign since the 1930's, winners and losers appeared uneasy, uncertain about the country's economic problems, and uncertain too, about the state of the republic's psyche.

Then, the evening of May 1st, things got seriously worse. The previous Prime Minister, Pierre Beregovoy, shot himself to death just days after turning his office over to the rightist Edouard Balladur. Beregovoy died without leaving a note, the police said. According to every report, Beregovoy, until recently a respected and admired member of President Mitterrand's circle of advisers, though not quite part

Continued on p. 2



A study in contrasts: Judith Miller of *The New York Times* makes a point while two other experts on Islam, Gary Sick, left, and As'ad Abukhalil, listen during a discussion that attracted more than 70 persons to the May panel on the question on fundamentalism.

3 experts offer starkly different views

Panel on Islamic Fundamentalism Provokes Some Sharp Exchanges

BY AMY SIVCO

The rapid spread of Islamic fundamentalism has sent shock waves around the world, but is it a movement that poses a direct threat to the West? Or is it in some respects a positive force for political change that should be accommodated?

Three top experts in the field exchanged starkly different views of Islamic fundamentalism at a well-attended OPC panel discussion on May 26 in New York. The three were Gary Sick, who served on the National Security Council staff and handled the Iranian hostage crisis; Judith Miller of *The New York Times* who is working on a book about the Middle East; and As'ad Abukhalil, a scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington. Moderating the evening was Lisa Anderson, director of Columbia's Middle East Institute and an authority on northern Africa.

Miller took the toughest position, warning that new Islamic republics could directly harm Israel as well as religious minorities, women, and opposition leaders throughout the Moslem World. "I really believe that the movements that take part in Islamic fundamentalism do have some things in common that should trouble Westerners interested in pluralistic values," said Miller, who has spent years reporting from the region. She believes that whoever controls the region's oil will want to sell it to the world, so the

Continued on p. 2

Extra...Extra...

Page 3: What the Dutch read
Page 4: For members only
Page 5: People on the move
Page 6: June's program

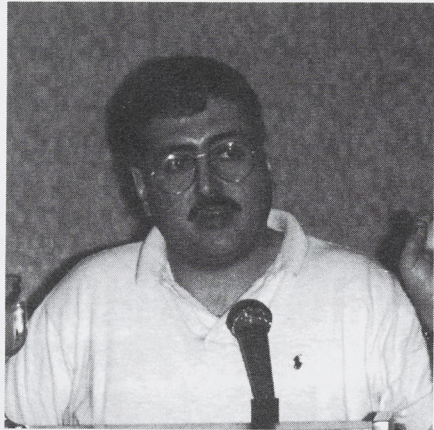
Islam...

Continued from p. 1

West's economic interests aren't at stake as much as its values.

In contrast, Sick lambasted American critics of Islamic fundamentalism, particularly those in the media, who have compared it with the Bolshevik and Nazi movements. "In the media today, there is an explosion of fear of fundamentalism," said Sick. "On the whole, the trend has not been as bad as anticipated. Hostage-taking is over, partly because of war, and also because they (the Iranians) are exhausted," he maintained.

Sick argued that Islamic fundamentalists, in some senses, were "agents of change" who are working against cor-



As'ad Abukhalil: Faults journalists who neither speak nor read Arabic language.

rupt and brutal governments, which are often backed by the U.S. and its allies. "These governments have closed off all forms of political expression," said Sick. "Where can these people go to talk? They meet in the mosque."

His worst fear is that the West, having won the Cold War against Communism, will create a new "ism" that must be destroyed, a kind of latter-day Crusade.

Abukhalil took a stronger stand in defending Islamic fundamentalism,

accusing Miller and other Western writers of creating an "ideology of hatred directed toward Islam." He argued that feminist writers and pro-Jewish writers had intentionally misrepresented Islam to the Western world and tried to create the appearance of a single threat. "Despite the clichés, there is no Islam as such," he declared. "There are vast lands, diverse interpretations and diverse cultures."

He also attacked Western journalists for not speaking, and especially not reading, Arabic. They miss out on the language's subtleties and may lose meaning in translation, he suggested. But in one of the sharpest exchanges of the evening, Miller retorted: "You don't have to read *Mein Kampf* in German to get the drift."

now dead, who was said to have been guilty of insider trading. Other newspapers detailed the unrepaid loan and some of the scandals brewing, admittedly without the zest of the *Canard* and hardly exaggerated by American standards.

The public, stunned by the story on television and radio, seemed truly shocked and saddened by the suicide. In a country as small as France, such an event can rock an entire population. As the suicide occurred on a Saturday night, there was almost no newspaper coverage before Monday, and the television and radio programs on Sunday turned mainly to the propriety of the print media in "hounding" the man who had been looked upon as a skilled and sensible Prime Minister only a few weeks earlier. On Monday, *le Monde* printed articles by Francois Leotard, the newest rightist Minister of Defense, and Laurent

Continued on p. 6

Pick Up a Paper in Holland

The Dutch boast 43 dailies, but no Sunday editions

BY SAM WAAGENAAR

The Dutch most likely are the most avid newspaper readers in the world. There are 43 principal daily newspapers with a total circulation of 5.8 million in this country of 15 million people. Applied on a comparative basis to the United States, this would mean that the American readers would devour approximately 74 million papers a day, which would be an astonishing figure indeed.

Of the papers with a national distribution, the *Amsterdam Telegraaf*, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, has a daily circulation of 730,000 and reaches nearly one million on Saturdays. (There are no Sunday papers

together account for an additional 220,000.

A special case is the once strongly Catholic *Volkskrant* with a daily circulation of close to 350,000. Published mostly in the fairly solid Catholic southern provinces of Brabant and Limburg, its readership during the last 20 years has practically stopped going to church—from 35% to 15%. This was mostly caused by the reactionary attitude of the retired Bishop Gijzen of Roermond, whose attitude toward Pope John Paul has estranged his flock from the Church.

Foreign coverage by the Dutch press—among the 43 dailies mentioned, there are two strong provincial groups with a total of nearly 30 papers—is being taken care of by a large group of fully financed foreign correspondents. *The Telegraaf* and *NRC-Handelsblad* each boast of 19 of them, while the *GPD*—one of the two indicated provincial groups—has 18 correspondents all on its own.

Of the total of 5.8 million papers that are spread around the country every day, fully 90% (!) are sent to subscribers by 6 A.M. by an army of cyclists and motorcyclists who are paid 7.5 guilders (\$4) an hour and take home a monthly pay of 250 guilders (\$150).

The prominent weeklies supply the Dutch with the rest of their information: *Elsevier*, similar to *Time* or *Newsweek*, is a strictly conservative

magazine with a circulation of 120,000 (and 12 foreign correspondents). And the left-of-center *Vrig Nederland*—also started as an underground publication in 1940 during the war—is read by 100,000.

Sam Waagenaar, a member of the OPC, lives in The Netherlands.

Candidates Are Named for Board Election

The OPC Nominating Committee has identified 14 candidates who will seek to fill seven vacancies on the Board of Governors for two-year terms beginning in September. Six of the vacancies are for active governors and one is for associate.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible members in a few weeks. Biographies of the candidates will be published in the July issue of *The Bulletin*.

Additional nominations may be made by petition under OPC bylaws. Petitions must be signed by at least 40 eligible members, active or associate, and each petition must be delivered in person to the club secretary or postmarked no later than June 30.

Here is the list of candidates, as approved by the Board of Governors:

Active Governors (six vacancies): Jacqueline Albert Simon, Politique Internationale; John Corporon, WPIX;

David Cudaback, Institutional

Continued on p. 4

BY LESLIE ALDRIDGE WESTOFF

I suppose the most moving and alarming stories come out of wars where fighting men lose the constraints of civilization and collapse upon themselves like mindless, dense black holes.

But there are other wars we fight, and I encountered one of them on a day I visited an 18-year-old girl who sat on her bed in her parent's home in New Jersey where she grew up, holding her newborn baby in her arms. The piece on teenage pregnancy was for *The New York Times Magazine*. The war was against the high rate of unplanned births among our unwed teenagers.

I like to think of that baby who is now a teenager himself, and hope that he is at some terrific college, worrying about important things like football games and quizzes and whom to date next Saturday night.

I called the girl Laura, which was not her real name. She told me how she had just started college, had been using the Pill but had given it up when she began to gain weight. She didn't replace it with any other contraception and explained that in the back of her mind she thought she was sterile because she hadn't used anything for a year and nothing had happened.

Her boyfriend, who had previously talked of marrying her, wanted her to have an abortion, but although she believed in the right to have an abortion, she knew she herself could never have one. So, he drove her home from

Members Only

"Members Only" invites OPC members to write about an experience they've had on the job—one that stands out among the rest. This month, member Leslie Aldridge Westoff of Palm Beach, Fla., talks about a crisis she covered 17 years ago that hasn't gone away.

college and went away. Her father felt a violent anger toward this boy who abandoned his daughter.

Talking with her, I lost all objectiveness and found myself feeling anger. Anger at the primitive contraception we had lived with. Anger at scientists who had done so little to solve this problem. Sympathy for this child who sat there forlornly smoothing the silky fuzz on her child's head. Sympathy for this child-woman who might have been me, who told me she felt like crying, "I want my Mommy," when she learned of her pregnancy, and now had chosen to love and care for her baby alone.

Sympathy for Laura who, because of the inadequate choice of contraception and her own foolishness, had let this happen and now had to worry about diapers and nightly feedings instead of glorying in the most precious, carefree years of life, those college years with friends and teachers and ideas and romances one never forgets.

Laura herself felt bitter, as though she had been conned by her boyfriend. She also felt guilty for using her mother as a baby-sitter when she commuted to a nearby college for art classes, and putting a drain on the family finances.

The piece, "Kids With Kids," was published in 1976, when there were about 200,000 births to unmarried teenage girls. Now, 17 years have

passed. Sadly, what I wrote then could easily have been written today. The U.S. has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the Western world. The most recent U.S. Census figures for 1990 show there were over 360,000 births to unwed teenage girls. Nothing much has changed—except to grow worse.

I sometimes think of Laura and see her sitting on her bed that day, cuddling her baby and wistfully telling me she loved her son and regretted nothing about keeping him, "But sometimes I'd like to call somebody and do something..."

I think of that baby who is now a teenager himself and hope he is at some terrific college, worrying about important things like football games and quizzes and whom to date next Saturday night and maybe how to save the environment. And neither he nor his lady-love has made the same mistake his mother and her teenage lover did.

Candidates...

Continued from p. 3

Investor; Felice Levin, freelance; Rick MacArthur, Harpers; Henry Mueller, Time; Andrew Nibley, Reuters; Ponchitta Pierce, freelance; Kitty Pilgrim, CNN; Richard Pyle, Associated Press; Carol Stern, freelance; Robert E. Sullivan, World Television News; and Chris Wilcox, Readers Digest.

Associate Governors (one vacancy): John Polich, currently an alternate.

Active governors whose terms are expiring include Myrna Blyth, George Bookman, Fred Ferguson, R. Edward Jackson, Rosalind Massow and Dwight Sargent.

The nominating committee consists of Bill Holstein, chairman; George Bookman, George Burns, Anita Diamant, Fred Ferguson, Allan Frank and Gael McCarthy.